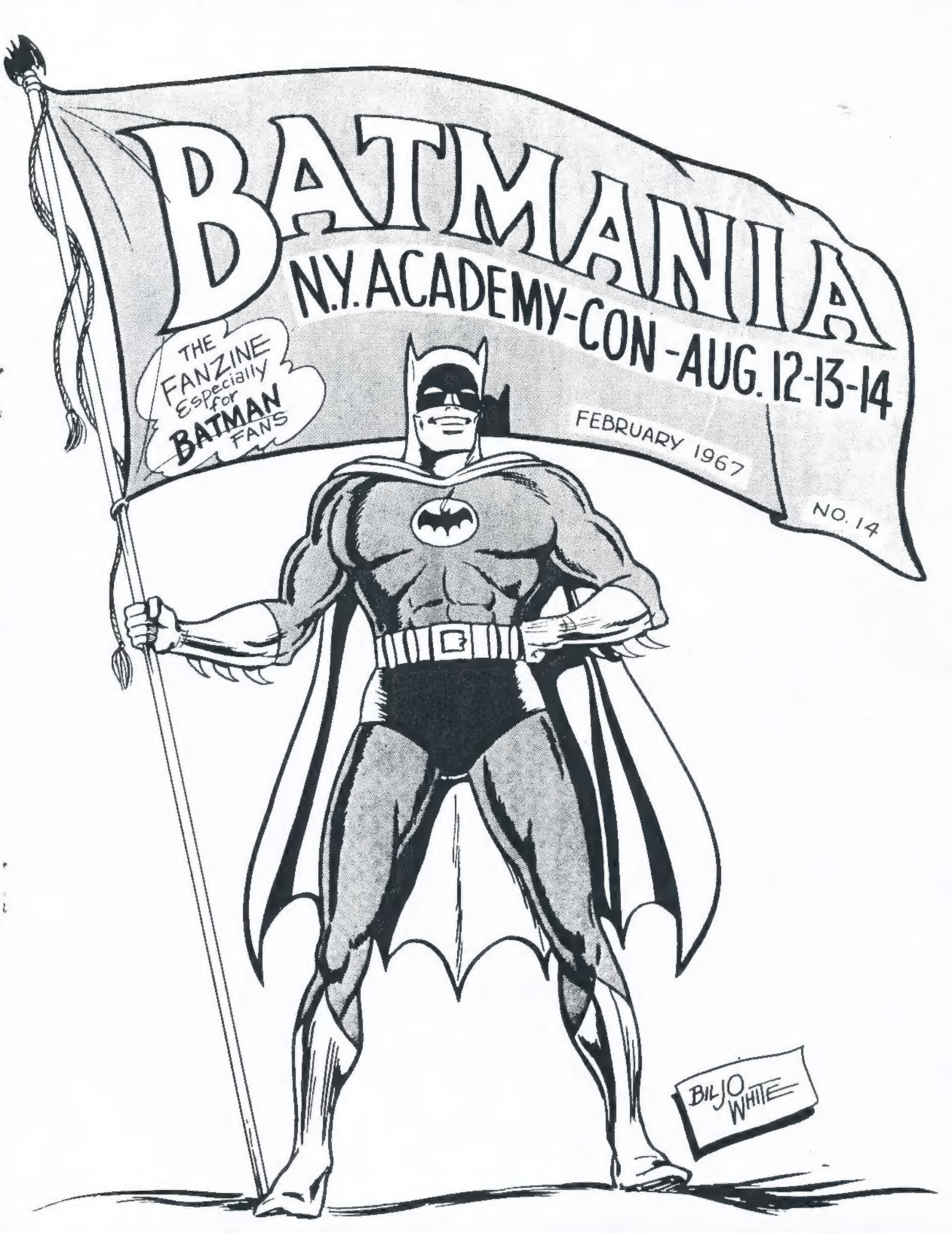
BATMANIA
N.Y. ACADEMY-CON - AUG. 12-13-14
THE FANZINE Especially for BATMAN FANS
FEBRUARY 1967
NO. 14
BIL JO WHITE

No. 14
February
1967

The Fanzine Especially for Batman Fans

BATMANIA

Biljo White, Editor

Associate Editor,
Tom Fagan

For Batman we accept nothing as impossible.

Our objective--to join together those who enjoy reading, watching, and collecting the stories of Batman and Robin.

THE BAT-HEADLINER for FEBRUARY

Escapism With a Pow and Zap! by H. J. Waters Jr.

Wham! Zap! Pow!
This is the age of nuclear fission, cybernetics, space exploration...and Batman!

The resurrection of Batman is nothing short of miraculous. From their humble beginnings in the dime comic books of years ago, Batman and Robin now find themselves deep in the heady swirl of network tv, surrounded by big name stars and holding their own very well, thank you, in the Nielsen race.

And now there's talk of catapulting the Green Hornet into preeminence again, on another network, of course, to counterbalance Batman's popularity. It's a classic duel using 20th century weapons between two of the most unlikely adversaries in history.

To compound the picture, consider the Tarzan phenomenon. Would you believe Tarzan is on the comeback trail, too? Take a look at your favorite bookstore's selves. If you don't see at least 25 Tarzan books your literary peddler is just not hep and you'd better move on down the street where you can find ALL the books that are moving now.

Of course, we've long been aware of the curious fact that newspaper funny pages (love that phrase) are, by no means, reserved for the youngsters. It's no secret that a good movie (which often means a simple, even inane one for many folks) is a happy haven from the tribulations of the day. We slip away into a good book; dive headlong into hobbies requiring simple, pointed concentration and the use of

(Continued on Page 19)

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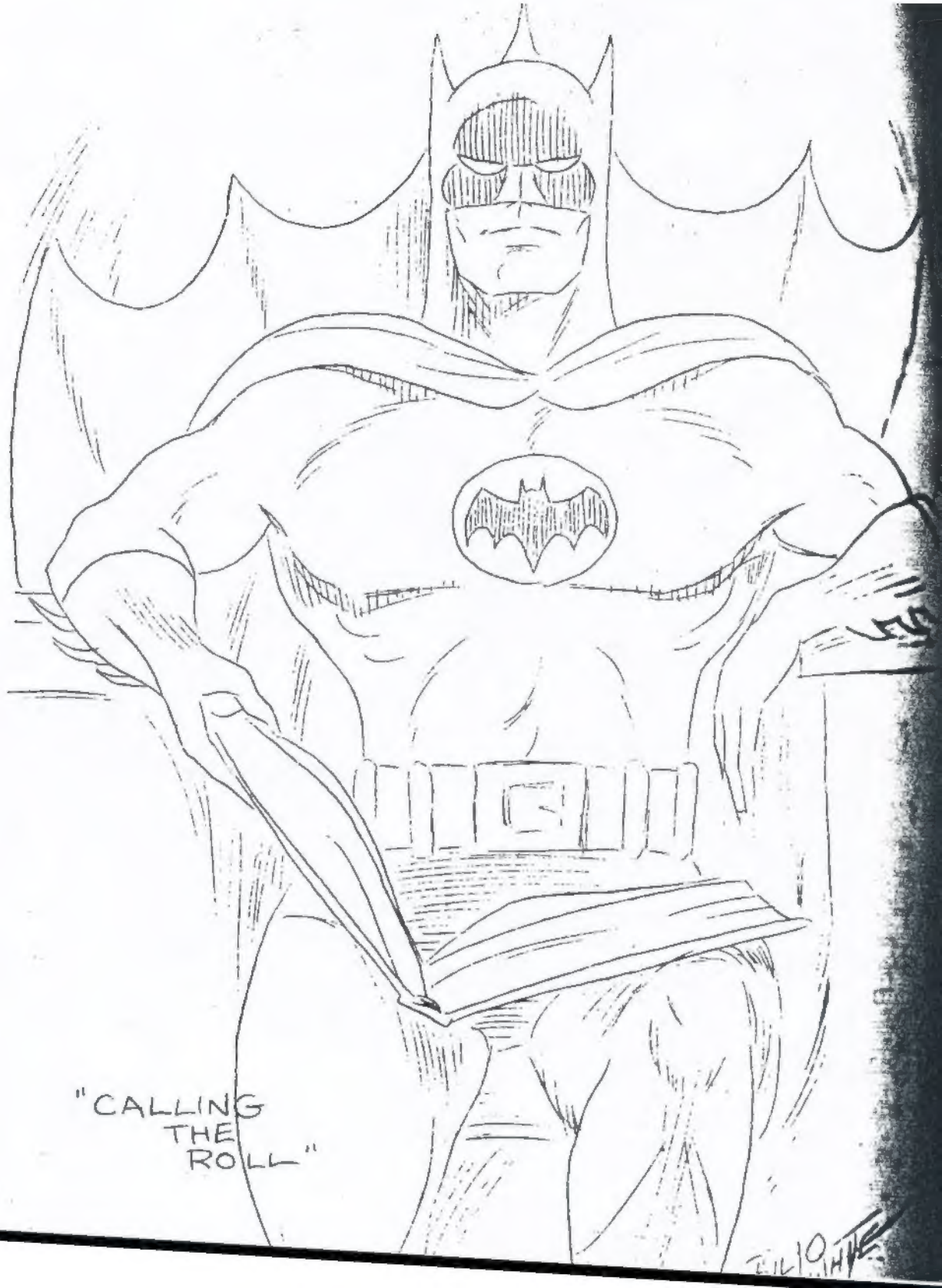

"CALLING
THE
ROLL"

CON-CAVE '66

BATMANIANS ASSEMBLE!

by Tom Fagan

When Batmanians get together...there's bound to be action, fun and excitement.

Such a time was August 14th, 1966, the day of the first official national Con-Cave. Upwards to 200 of the faithful swooped in on the gathering.

The place--Gotham City--or as it is called by some, New York City. The rooms of the luxurious City Squire Motor Inn in downtown Manhattan provided the meeting place.

Forenoon and the hour of the Con-Cave grew near. Excitement mounted for this Sunday segment of the Academy Con-Cave. Blazoned across a far wall was a mammoth sign, "BATMANIANS '66". Adjacent a huge poster depicting Robin flipping Capt. Biljo (the Batmanians' symbol figure) up and out of the folds of Batman's cape.

Both signs were the artistry of Biljo White, club director. And word quickly spread that Biljo in spite of many attempts was unable to be at the Con-Cave. Airlines strike and impossible travel conditions was the reason winged among the Batmanians.

Batmanian Chieftain Tom Fagan and Batmanian Lieutenant Rick Weingroff would have to go it alone. Expressing regret about Biljo's plight, the Vermont Chieftain and his trusted Maryland ally called the meeting to order.

An imposing panel, arranged by Batmanian David Kaler, was present for questions and answers about--who else--Batman and the continuing legend of the Gotham lawman.

Panelists were those familiar to all Batmanians---the key men at National responsible for Batman and his comic strip cohorts. There was Bill Finger, writer working on the Batman script since its inception back in 1939. Julius Schwartz, editor of Batman and instigator of the "New Look."

Gil Kane & Murphy Anderson, artists of the Batman tales. Nelson Bridwell, writer. Key men behind Batman. Not present, though invited, Bob Kane.

At Schwartz's suggestion, the audience fired questions. The answers were gems of Batmanian history. Finger related his part in the Batman story was by no means slackening. Scripts by him had been accepted for the Batman television program.

The most popular villain of the television series. None other than the Penguin!--the role brought to life by Burgess Meredith. Schwartz commented television moguls had envisioned The Riddler as the capricious criminal designed to catch the public's eye. The reason--The Riddler was the featured villain in the first Batman book ever read by William Dozier, producer of the series.

There were muttered comments about the television portrayal of Batman and Robin as comic buffoons. Schwartz commented "Camp," but added National had some say in the television story lines. For instance, television without National's approval, could not marry off Batman to some femme fatale. And National isn't about to let the legendary lawman tred the path of orange blossoms and wedding bells.

Why aren't artist and writer credits given in the Batman comic book sagas, asked a Batmanian. Schwartz explained he had been giving these recently in letter-page paragraphs. He also stated Bob Kane's contract with National might stipulate Kane's name appear on Batman stories since Kane was the originator. He said a check would have to be made of contract agreements to see if actual credits could be listed on the beginning pages of the stories.

How about Alfred? Schwartz said he wanted to start the new look Batman off with a "dynamic" punch. "It was the biggest mistake of my life," he added meaning the story carrying the "killing" of Alfred. But Alfred would return, promised Schwartz not revealing how at the meeting. Shortly afterwards the newsstands carried the Alfred revival account in which Alfred was unmasked as the unknown opponent of Batman and Robin--the Outsider.

Finger, when called upon, told how he came up with the name of Robin for Batman's youthful companion when the strip was only a few month's old. On the start of Batman from the beginning, it was Finger's suggestions that added cowl, cape and gauntlets to the Batman costume. Moreover, the Joker and the Penguin received the extra dash and zip from Finger to brand the characters as immortal in the halls of comicdom villainy.

Why aren't the early Batman adventures reprinted? Technical reasons were cited by Schwartz along with the opinioned statement new generations of Batmen followers wouldn't recognize their hero. Avid

disagreement was voiced at this point by the Batmanians. Bridwell informed the group he, himself, had rewritten several of these early stories which will be published by the Kellogg's Company as cereal giveaways. (Ed.Note--I understand Prell also has giveaways.)

What about Batwoman? Schwartz declared she was relegated to comic limbo and wouldn't return. Again he met objection on this point but held firm saying Batwoman was really not original but simply a carbon copy female figure in bat's clothing. However, Schwartz told the group, a new figure with an old name would be introduced into the strip--Bat Girl. Her identity? Commissioner Gordon's daughter. This announcement met with laughter from the Batmanians.

Scheduled for reintroduction in the strip from the annals of villainy is the Scarecrow, first appearing in World's Finest #3. Scarecrow will be updated to conform with the times. Along lines of updating was mention of National's old-new hero--Plastic Man. Gil Kane was asked why he had changed Plastic Man's features. True he had made the modern day Plastic Man look akin to Dean Martin, Kane said, but he added he still felt the original art work of the late originator Jack Cole was still "the greatest."

All too shortly two hours of good natured repartee swept by with fans of the Spectre getting in their bids to have the Phantom Policeman given a continuing, long-lasting "new life."

With the official Con-Cave brought to a close, the panel table was vacated and fans clustered about the speakers for autographs and last minute detailed bits of information.

Biljo's posters were carefully taken from the walls and rolled up for safe shipment back to Columbia, Missouri and placement in the Batmanians museum.

The Academy Con costume Parade bloomed into being. And again, Batmanians proved their mettle. Awarded Batman original art for his costume was Larry Raybourne, Batmanian lieutenat from Cleveland, Ohio. "Except for that yellow circle on your chest," Raybourne was told, "You look just like the Batman of the '30s." Which is about as close to a compliment as you can get.

In the parade and receiving their share of acclaims were Robins and Batgirls and even "the Outsider," played by soft spoken Johnny Cobra, a fan with a western drawl.

The Con-Cave was over. Photos would be tucked in picture books, coveted autograph filed safely away, costumes placed lovingly into secret chests...

Batmanians going once again their separate ways.

Until...

Con-Cave '67.

Tom Fagan, Chief Batmanian

CON-TINUED

by Mark Hamerfeld

Tom Fagan, as a panelist at the N.Y. Academy Con, was unable to take notes for the report you have just read. He thought it would be a good idea to give the reader a "fans-eye view" of the Con-Cave. The following is from the-other-side-of-the-fence.

Before, there had been time for New Comics and Their Editors; for the Marvel Bullpen; for Stan Lee (which is more an experience than an event); and for the trading and selling of comics. But, now it was time for Batman...which is a very special time!

It was Sunday, the 14th of August, the final day of the 1966 Academy Con, and, at the noon hour, the Batmaniacs assembled. Tom Fagan, Chief Batmaniac, presided over a panel consisting of Julius Schwartz, Bill Finger, E. Nelson Bridwell, Bil Kane, Murphy Anderson and Rick Weingroff. The discussion was quickly thrown open to questions from the Batmaniacs, and the following is, in brief, some of the more interesting information garnered from that meeting.

The first subject to come under fire was the Batman TV show. Bill Finger, who has already done one episode for the series (The Crazy Crimes of the Clock...starring Walter Slezak), explained that the story had to conform to the established format because, "That's what they wanted!" He went on to explain, "When you write a script for tv, you run into quite a number of people. You run into Bill Dozier, Howie Horwitz, and he has a couple of story editors, one being Charles Hoffman. Then the story has to be approved by the ABC Network, and every one of them contributes something...a piece of paper...saying he doesn't like this or he doesn't like that. By the time the writer gets it, he goes absolutely out of his mind trying to please everybody! This happened to me. I rewrote the treatment to the script. It went out. It came back again for revision...the usual revision, and they wanted to put back all the things I had taken out...and all the things they asked for were taken out. And this is the kind of format.... It's a problem!"

When asked their reaction to the show, the panel seemed to agree that they had enjoyed the first few shows, but regretted that the show had fallen into a repetitious and almost plotless mold. Mr. Schwartz remarked that he was lucky that the first issue producer Dozier read featured the revival of the Riddler because, if he had picked up an issue from a few years back that featured a Bat-Mite or some Robot-Batman from Mars, the series might not even have come about. The Riddler, and later on The Joker and the Penguin, gave them the

idea of featuring a guest villain every week.

Next, the subject of the "new look" in Batman came up. When asked why he had initiated the changes in the strip, Julie answered that it was simply "to give it a shot in the arm." Batman was not selling as well as it had twenty years ago when it was one of the top magazines. Bill Finger added what Julie had really done was to go back to the old formula and make the stories simpler in plot and richer in characterization, and milking both factors.

When asked why Alfred had been "knocked off," Mr. Schwartz answered that it was done to make an "explosive impact" on the readers in order to gain their attention and interest, as well as giving him an opportunity to add a necessary female to the Wayne household. As for some of the mistakes he has made, such as having Batman use a gun in the first "new look" Batman story that appeared in Detective Comics #327, Julie confessed that, before taking over editorship of the strip, he doesn't remember having read a Batman story! Nor, for that matter, had he ever read a comics story before he became an editor for National!!

Now, David Kaler, Executive Secretary of The Academy of Comic Book Fans And Collectors and organizer of the Academy Con, turned the subject of the discussion to the early days of Batman. He asked Bill Finger to relate the origins of some of the main characters of the strip. For instance...Why was Robin added after the feature had been running for almost a year in Detective Comics without him? Bill replied, "Robin came about when I got a call from Bob Kane saying Batman needed somebody to talk to... ....he needed a 'Watson.' Let's put it that way! So, Bob Kane called me up and he said that he had dreamed up a character; a boy. So, I went up there. Jerry Robinson was there, and they both come up with this boy. I tried to get a name for him. I had loads of names..as Jerry Bails once saw a list. Anyway, the name Robin came about for some reason...I think it was Jerry Robinson who put it there ...because his name was Robinson. Anyway, he didn't even look very much like Robin. I suggested the Robin Hood boots that he wears. But we needed a name...Dick Grayson! I immediately thought of the old Frank Merriwell books I had once read. Frank Merriwell had a half-brother named Dick Merriwell. So, that's how we got the name 'Dick.' And Grayson was just the name of a man who used to composite short adventure stories. His name was Charles Grayson. I happened to have a volume with me. So, I took the name Grayson. It's as simple as that!"

Tom Fagan asked how the Joker had been created. His reply: "The Joker? Well, again I got a call from Bob Kane, who asked me to come up. He had a new villain. When I arrived he was holding a playing card. Apparently, Jerry Robinson or Bob, I don't recall who, looked at the card and they had an idea for a character...the Joker. Bob made a rough sketch of it. At first it didn't look much like the Joker. It looked more like a clown. But, I remembered that Grosset & Dunlop formerly issued very cheap editions of classics by Alexander Dumas and Victor Hugo. These editions included photographs, movie stills from old movies...Three Musketeers, lots of them. The volume I had was 'The Man Who Laughs,'-- his face had been permanently operated on so that he will always have this perpetual grin. And it looked absolutely weird. I cut the picture out of the book and gave it to Bob, who drew the profile and gave it a more sinister aspect. Then we worked on the face; made him look a little clown-like, which accounted for his white face, red

lips, the green hair. And that was the Joker!"

Concerning Bruce Wayne's name, Bill said, "The name came from Robert Bruce. Wayne came from, actually, Mad Anthony Wayne. He was a socialite. I had to give him a name, so, I started to think of a good, old colonial name; and I thought of Mad Anthony Wayne, who suggests out-going action. Which is how I got the name."

When Tom Fagan asked whether or not it was true that the idea for the Penguin came off a package of Kool cigarettes, Bill was quick to reply, "Oh, he never came off a package of Kools...I happened to be looking at a copy of the old Saturday Evening Post that had an article on the Emperor Penguin. It had some photographs of Emperor Penguins waddling about. To me they looked exactly like portly Englishmen going to their private clubs. Naturally when you think of an Englishman, you think of the perpetual umbrella. So, I decided to make a character who ...well, it can't just be an umbrella. I decided to gimmick them. I gave him a top hat; make him looking like the Englishman, and gave him a thousand umbrellas, gimmicked. Alas, we have the Penguin."

There was more, of course, much more. Unfortuantely it can't all be recorded here. At about 2:30 that afternoon the Batmanians Con-Cave broke up. Some left to partake of a late lunch, but most fans hung around to engage in private conversation with the pros. Eventually, however, the crowd thinned and faded and was magically gone. But not the memory. Not the memory!

---Mark Hanerfeld

Editor's note: Conclave - a private meeting (a dictionary meaning) is the correct term to describe such a meeting of Batmanians, however, the term Con-Cave is used as the official name of our annual meet. Con = convention, Cave = (stands for the Bat-cave.).

Please accept my apology for the poor quality of the photo-page on your right. As it reached me shortly before publication date, it could not be replaced. From left to right in the photos are: Murphy Anderson, E. Nelson Bridwell, Julius Schwartz, Tom Fagan, Bill Finger, Gil Kane, and Rick Weingroff. Photos of others at the Con-Cave are needed, and I'll try to get the whole bunch reproduced for you. Photos can be returned if necessary.

On the reverse of this page (photo-page) is a reprinted article from The Columbia Daily Tribune, Columbia, Mo. It is by their very able staff writer, Max Baird, who I accused of having a tape recoarder hidden during the interview -- as he forgot nothing of what I said. The Old Capt., needless to say, is mighty proud to have finally made the home-town news. Perhaps I too have earned the coveted Batmania ACHIEVEMENT AWARD. What say?

REMEMBER -- My new address is: BILJO WHITE, 1812 JACKSON ST., COLUMBIA, MISSOURI. 55201

If you have moved recently, please notify me of your new address. And most important, YOU MUST state your Zip-Code on your letters to me, as of January 1, 1967 all 3rd Class mail must include Zip-number.

Columbia, in a Sense, Is World Capital for Batman

By MAX BAIRD
Tribune Staff Writer

The Tribune's editor wrote an editorial the other day titled "Escapism With a Pow and Zap!" about the phenomenon of the Batman resurrection.

It was a heady piece about how Batman "might represent the search for the ultimate escape which will allow us all to cope with the unbelievably frightening ultimates" such as nuclear fission, cybernetics, space exploration.

Well, we don't know about that, but all this reminded us that Columbia in one sense is sort of an ultimate world capital for Batman, so we got in touch—Zowie!—with Billy Jo White out on Route 2 at the "White House of Comics."

White, a Columbia fireman and lifelong (of Batman) Batman fan, is editor and publisher of "Batmania," internationally circulated fanzine (that's fan magazine) for intrepid followers of the comic strip, comic book, movie serial and now television battler for right.

"Batmania" now goes to almost every state in the union (White wasn't sure about Montana) plus Italy, India, England, Canada, Australia, Scotland and South Africa to the approximately 1,500 members of the diehard Batman fan group.

The Johnny-come-lately TV series, triggered by a revival of a 1943 movie serial, has given the fanzine a big boost, but the periodical was well established (1964) before the current craze began.

White, or Captain Biljo as he is identified in the fanzine, says he always liked art work and began buying the comic books and saving newspaper comic strips as a child in order to learn to draw by imitating them. Batman then came along about that time to take immediate first place in White's world.

"I'm a completist, so I kept them all from the beginning," Biljo says.

That trait has resulted in a complete collection of Batman strips and books that has an enviable position today in the adventure strip collectors complex.

He won't put a financial estimate on his collection, which also includes holdings of other adventure strips.

But he wouldn't sell Batman, anyway.

"If I ever had to split my collection, Batman would be the last to go," he avers.

Not only are early Batman books and strips prized by collectors, but "Batmania" itself is now a collector's item. The offering price by collectors for copies of the first nine issues is $2 each. The fanzine is issued "irregularly" about every two months. No. 13 (December, 1966) is the latest.

To house his collection White has built a 15 by 15 cinder block building, not only to have space for the growing collection but also to provide proper storage conditions for its preservation.

White's ambition to draw, which is what started it all, has found an outlet in his fanzine, which he illustrates with professional aplomb and in "one shot" comic books he has drawn for private distribution within the fan circle, such as "The Eye," "Tom Trojan" and an earlier "Gus Gunn," which he dropped when TV came out with Peter Gunn.

BILLY JO WHITE holds a copy of his internationally circulated "Batmania," published here for fans of Batman. (Tribune photo)

"Batmania" for the faith... a treasure trove. A feature articles about various aspects of Batman lore.

These articles include such subjects as "The New Look Batman," "Batman Before Robin" (there were 11 issues before Robin came in), "Evolution of the Batmobile," "Evolution of the Bat-Plane," "Batman Goes Campus" and "The World's Finest Team of Heroes," about when Batman and Superman joined forces for some adventures.

Since his inception in 1939 Batman has undergone some obvious outward changes in costume in addition to varying subtle interpretations that have resulted from individual artists over the years who have done the character for National Periodical Publications.

White says the bat emblem on Batman's chest originally was not circled, small capsules on his utility belt have expanded to big pockets, and the tall ears of the original mask have come down to mere nubs.

Batman is "worldwide." He is "Lynvingen" in Norway; "Laderlappen" in Sweden; "Mantisman" in South Africa, and "El Hombre Murcielago" in Mexico. These are American drawings with the various language translations in the blurbs. In Italy, however, original stories have started of "Batman-Nebo Kid."

Everyone has an "in-joke" these days and "Batmania" fans are no exception. They have created a Russian Batman and given him what apparently appears to be a factual history. Collectors not in the know are constantly seeking to locate these non-existent strips.

White is a 1947 graduate of Hickman High School and has lived here all his life except for 1959 when he worked in Portland, Ore., for a year for a window display company. He is married to the former Pat Calvert. Both are members of the Columbia Art League.

And the end of the family cartooning interest is seeming not in sight.

There is a daughter, Elizabeth, 6, a first grader at Rock Bridge School.

White comments: "She is going to be an artist. I give her tons of paper, and for some time she's been squaring the pages. Now she's started putting words in the spaces."

Zowie, Brrapppp, Zap and Pow!!!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE BATMANIA MONTHLY?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE IT FREE?

HOW, YOU ASK...

YOU MUST READ THIS

We are planning a trial issue of a special BATMANIA-200 issue. It will feature a regular cover by the Old Capt. or one of the top Batmanians artists. Biljo, himself, will contribute to each issue. But the gimmic is---YOU will be the editor!

BATMANIA-200 will be accepting contributions of 2, 4, 6, or more pages of "ready sheet" articles. Your subject may cover comic books, comic strips, movies, tv, etc. It need not concern only Batman, so...

DO NOT ORDER #15

...Why? Because: We hope to send out this special BATMANIA-200 issue right after #14 (which you are now reading.)

Here's the way BATMANIA-200 works. Only 200 Batmanians will receive this first issue -- due to the fact only 200 issues will be prepared. The number will be increased if necessary -- and we hope it will be. A "ready sheet" is a completely prepared page, printed by mimeo, spirit dup, or offset. It is to be prepared by you, with your layout. YOU are the Editor. You need not be an educational-whiz, or writer-deluze -- but do check your spelling carefully. ALL contributions will be used with the only stipulation being: ALL 200 copies you submit (whether 2, 4,or more pages) MUST be clear, easily readable copies. Only even number pages accepted. (Not 3, 5 pages with one blank side.) Contributers of 4 pages may use ½ of one of his pages for any personal ad. 6-page contributers may use one of the six for a full page ad. All contributers will receive a free issue. If this trial issue works out, there will be others. 1st issue contributers can receive issues #2 and #3 for the cost of postage alone.

Not everyone will want to contribute, so there will be extra copies. How they will be disposed of hasn't been decided.

(Continued on page 18)

...MORE THAN JUST A WHACKY TIME

Dick [illegible] the opening of Camp

Bruce [illegible], [illegible] by his assistants, head of the [illegible] Foundation for Good [illegible], and his ward [illegible], Dick Grayson, are standing on a balcony of the [illegible] mansion, peering through a telescope.

"Holy Galaxies!" cries Dick Grayson. "It certainly is fun looking through this telescope. I can see the planet Saturn."

"A telescope is more than just a toy," says Bruce Wayne solemnly. "A telescope [illegible] perspective on life. It helps us realize just how insignificant we are."

Dick Grayson's eyes roll. "You're right, Bruce," he says with enthusiasm and deep affection. He turns and looks through the telescope once more. "Already I see Saturn in a new light," he cries without batting an eye.

Just then the Wayne butler appears on the balcony and announces that the police inspector of Gotham City is on the Batphone. And you know what happens next. It's down the Batpoles (when do they put on their Bat clothes?), into the Bat Cave; it's into the nuclear-powered Batmobile and tearing out of the fake cave wall, over the folding barricade and screaming down that country road.

(Thank heaven no little girl has been peddling her bicycle down that country road when the Batmobile caroms out of the Bat Cave.)

But Bruce Wayne and Dick Grayson [illegible] They are off to save Gotham City from [illegible] death. Indeed, they are Batman and Robin, the Dynamic Duo, [illegible] of all characters of the [illegible], pals to watch out with the whole collection of [illegible] criminals: Egg Fry, Mr. Freeze, the Mad Hatter, the Cat Woman, the Riddler, the Bookworm, and above all that pasty-faced Clown Prince of Crime, the Joker.

In a recent struggle with the Clown Prince, Batman managed to foil a nasty plot to produce a whole generation of high school dropouts in Gotham City. Remember? The Joker had rigged the school Coke machines to deliver [illegible], no less. In the [illegible] of Woodrow Roosevelt High [illegible] believing that "things in life are free."

But Batman, while capturing the Joker and sending him up again to Gotham State Prison, [illegible]. "Nothing in life is free," he [illegible] straight face. And the young people of Woodrow Roosevelt High stopped hanging around the Easy Living Candy Store and got back to their studies.

WHAT'S GOING [illegible]

The very [illegible] what's going on. Every Thursday afternoon my five-[illegible], dressed in a Cannon towel cape and a paper Robin mask Scotch-taped to his ears, greets me at the door and informs me that he has dispatched both the Joker and Mr. Freeze in a titanic duel to the finish. I am reassured that all is right with the world. My little boy [illegible] to take [illegible] Daniel Boone on Thursday night, [illegible]. A C quite happy.

The colleges have taken to Batman in droves--or should I say swarms? The Torch, Valparaiso University student paper, says the dormitory lounge was so crowded during "Bat Hour" that students in the back of the room [illegible] binoculars to see the screen.

Someone [illegible] the Caped Crusaders. Batman and Robin appeared on the [illegible] cover, [illegible] smiled near the top of the [illegible]. The [illegible] dominated the early afternoon [illegible] on Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

But what is so fascinating about a man (with midriff bulge) dressed in long gray underwear and a blue cape with cowl? Why spend an hour watching what is [illegible] faked melodrama?

The criminals [illegible] are not really criminals, but take-offs on the criminal [illegible]. Right? The titanic duels between Batman and Joker are not duels [illegible], but a sort of ritual dance. Batman and Robin flatten their foes with rhythmic punch and counter-punch (as if they were doing [illegible]-footed ballet), while the words "zap," "pow," "bam," "scrunch," and "whoom" flash across the screen. The zaps, in fact, obscure the fight. They are the signal that Batman has triumphed, that good has again vanquished evil.

But what is most uncomfortable: when Batman and Robin talk they sound like Buster Keaton reading Poor Richard's Almanac. They speak in proverbs. With a perfectly deadpan face and the voice of a Hollywood undertaker, Batman says, "Nothing in life is free."

He also says to the Joker (as the Joker is about to dispatch him with a combination slot machine-electric chair), "Sorry, I don't approve of gambling." And when he has zapped the Joker to his knees, he turns to his viewers and says, "That's what easy living gets you."

WHY ALL the corn?

Most [illegible] Batman. The Joker and the Riddler are [illegible] mustachioed movie [illegible] tracks. The blond-haired [illegible] just in the nick of time, to trounce the villain's nefarious and to assure that crime doesn't pay. You applaud the [illegible] and boo the villains--and you always know the difference.

But what some people may not realize is that [illegible] mere corn. [illegible] especially in large cities and on college campuses, [illegible] or other the new way of looking at things is called "Camp." It's a post-war sentiment, a sense of humor, and [illegible] style of life.

Batman [illegible] disappear for [illegible] year or so. Camp sentiment will not disappear for many years to come. It's been brewing for [illegible], at least as long as [illegible] has been around. You may [illegible] Camp terms right now, without knowing it. Do you think Batman is [illegible] because he is corny? If so, you have an idea of what Camp is all about.

Those of us who were [illegible] Batman very well. He, together with [illegible], Captain Marvel, Plastic Man, Wonder Woman, and a host of other [illegible] of crime, filled the comic books of that decade. [illegible] don't have [illegible] as we did. We had no television [illegible] in those days.

Back in the [illegible] and Superman were always saying, "Let-thing in life [illegible]" and "That's what separates you from [illegible]." Batman took himself [illegible] and we took him seriously, too. Every parent welcomed Batman [illegible] to the [illegible] world.

The new Camp [illegible] for different reasons. They [illegible] because they took themselves seriously. It was a [illegible] "square" [illegible]." They thought certain kinds of movies, [illegible], books, [illegible] people were equally funny for the same reasons: They seemed to take themselves so seriously.

For instance:

The Hardy [illegible];

Nelson Eddy [illegible] ex-travagant love [illegible] Jeanette MacDonald;

Victor Mature [illegible] Samson;

Charles Atlas [illegible];

Lawrence Welk playing champagne music;

Vinyl furniture faked to look like wood.

And maybe, before long, Sonny and Cher because they seem to take their yellow turtleneck sweaters and pirates' jackets and brown-leather belts and bell-bottom pants and black boots and shoulder length hair and their songs so seriously.

If you have the Camp sense of humor, anyone and anything are fair game. As a rule of thumb, the Camp mood finds the serious absurd and the absurd serious. As Susan Sontag, young New York writer, has said: "The whole point of Camp is to dethrone the serious. Camp is playful, antiserious."

Camp is a little like playing it cool. You sit back and watch life from a remote point of view. You say, "I'm from Missouri, you've got to prove it to me first." You say, "I'm going to sit this one out."

Or as Billy Buckner, 17-year-old Washington, D.C., student and

summer-time beach boy, recently put it in The Young Americans: "The whole world can go straight to hell as far as we're concerned." If you think that way you'll find Batman with his constant worry over rehabilitating delinquent kids and hardened criminals pretty funny--pretty Campy.

Since the creators of Batman aren't serious about their melodrama, they do not quite qualify as creators of Camp humor. They have been influenced by the mood, and have, in a sense, put the joke over on us. If they haven't dethroned the serious, they have at least spoofed it. And the result, as Life aptly said, is "confused and loony." The whole country "is going deliberately, and profitably, nuts," said Life's editors.

But we may want to ask whether going nuts is enough. Just as we may ask whether telling the world where to get off is enough.

The combination--being nutty and telling the world off--is an attractive combination and sometimes serves a purpose. For instance, when we are young we have to challenge some of the seriousness with which the adult world takes itself. We must challenge it because some of that seriousness is sham.

Adults (and I speak from myself now) often curtail the freedom of young people with great seriousness, just to make themselves feel more comfortable. We thrust our prejudices (occasionally in the name of religion) upon young people because we are afraid they will turn out differently from ourselves. We often try to throw a wet blanket on young people because we envy their youth.

This sort of adult seriousness is nothing more nor less than self-protection. In Christ's day the Pharisees played at this form of seriousness in order to protect their privileged positions. They prayed on street corners so that people would call them pious; they threw their contribution into the collection plate with a big clank so that people would admire their stewardship; they fasted frequently, to show that they were more interested in "spiritual" than physical things. All the while they were trying to build up both their egos and their influence.

And Jesus lowered the boom on them. He called them hypocrites, whitewashed tombs that looked good and clean on the outside, but were actually filled with dead man's bones--every kind of hypocrisy. He said that a person, to enter the Kingdom of God, would have to become as a little child. He would have to live life with openness, with trust, with joy, with humility.

So, if Christ came among us today in the flesh he might find it easier to make friends among the younger generation than among the older. He might even laugh at the faked pieties of Batman (who is really the epitome of the hypocritical adult). For Jesus was the exact opposite of sham. He was the only completely honest man who ever lived. And since he was completely honest and open to God and men, he did not have to throw up barriers for self-protection. He could call men to give up their own hypocrisy and help the world God had created and loved.

For that reason, however, the "tell-the-world-where-to-get-off" types wouldn't find themselves altogether comfortable with Jesus. Neither would the "world-is-nuts" crew. Christ might agree with those who say the world is in a mess; but he would go right ahead and call them to help clean it up.

It's very easy to say the world is going nuts. It's simple to tell people where to get off. It's hard to laugh about the world's problems

[illegible] life for the world.

I have a feeling that if our Lord were with us he would talk to us a little like the preacher does in the book of Ecclesiastes. He would tell us there is a time for laughter and a time for seriousness. If we laugh at everything in life (as those with the Dark sense of humor do) we finally [illegible] out of our head, [illegible]! That's a little like com[illegible].

Of co[illegible] at others. [illegible]. There is something funny about a man in a long gray union suit saying, "That s what [illegible]." But when we [illegible] we may profitably re[illegible] our life is more than just a wacky t[illegible]. We have life, we [illegible], our heart pumps, for a purpose.

St. John [illegible] that purpose up: "We [illegible] passed over from death to life; that we know, because we love our brothers. The Man who does not love [illegible] in the realm of de[illegible]...t[illegible] this is how we know what love is: [illegible] Christ laid down his life for us. And we [illegible] turn are bound t[illegible] lives for [illegible] others."

Jesus [illegible] said, "The whole world can go straight to hell." [illegible] philosophy leads straight to bitterness and confusion. [illegible] ready to "lay down our lives f[illegible] our brothers" do we discover what the world is all about. God has c[illegible] for [illegible], [illegible]. As we follow Christ and love e[illegible], we may [illegible] sanity [illegible] mind all of the world's nuttiness; we prove that the world [illegible] to go straight to hell.

Which is it going to be--laughter and love? Or laughter and bitterness? It all depends upon whom we follow.

And by the way, I'm still worried about the [illegible] girl peddling her bicycle down that country road [illegible] caroms out of the Bat Cave. On[illegible] this [illegible] "bat" accident.

The above article was reprinted from ONE For Lutheran Youth [illegible]ine for July-Aug. 1966 by permission of Editor Charles L[illegible] and writer Duane P. Mehl, Board of Parish Education, [illegible] Church - Missouri Synod. Our special thanks to [illegible]en for their sincere cooperation.

YOU MUST READ THIS (continued from page 13)

If 200 (or more) Batmanians decide to contribute (which is most doubtful), [illegible], we could not send out such a [illegible] issue at one time. What we will do is issue what comes in first (to make up a fat issue) and hold over the remainder for issue #2, #3, etc.

As you can readily see, with enough contributors, Batmania could become a large, timely, monthly publication. I NEED YOUR HELP TO DO THIS. You may contribute more than once(and please do). I would like to have everyone contribute at least once every three months.

REMEMBER, DO NOT ORDER #1!!! Your money will only be returned. I'd prefer to start issuing Batmania FREE -- with your only cost being envelope and postage. This, BATMANIA-200, could become the Batmania of the future -- as eventually, I may not have sufficient time to do the whole thing myself. Meanwhile, I suggest you send me a stamped self addressed envelope for further information. (Continued page 22)

(C[illegible]

[illegible] and it [illegible]. For [illegible]

Now our [illegible], [illegible] much town in a supercharged car. [illegible] st town, and our heroes [illegible] them for the [illegible].

[illegible] on, isn't it? Just a lark for [illegible]. [illegible], the fantastic popularity [illegible], for instance, indicates something much [illegible].

[illegible] familiar with the traditional means of human escape [illegible] little--problems of the day. But now, [illegible] for we have been to go to combat the [illegible]. [illegible] days to tell [illegible] social upheavals, [illegible] the world [illegible], [illegible] -- in short, [illegible] our control will jump up next to [illegible] understanding.

[illegible] you don't even [illegible] --and he's [illegible] the viewer [illegible] message of [illegible] abject look [illegible], "[illegible]." [illegible], we ask you, [illegible]

And another thing. Batman possesses [illegible] weapon. When his fists strike home (accompanied by [illegible] on the screen reading, "Zap") it's [illegible], buddy. [illegible] to wonder what chances the [illegible] youthful [illegible] stand against [illegible] with [illegible] sticated weaponry of the current [illegible]. [illegible] anything could possibly [illegible] sweep all evil [illegible], helpless, de[illegible] citizens.

Well, [illegible]. Batman just might represent the search for the ultimate escape which will allow us to cope with the unbelievably frightening ultimates which are heaving into view. At least, he represents the most potent one to date.

Of course, technology is not coming to [illegible]. The space race will continue, but now there's a new [illegible]. Batman, or somebody like him, can keep up the race.

(Taken from The Columbia Daily Tribune, Columbia, Mo., editorial for Tues., Sept. 20, 1966 by H.J. [illegible] Jr. Thanks hereby extended [illegible].)

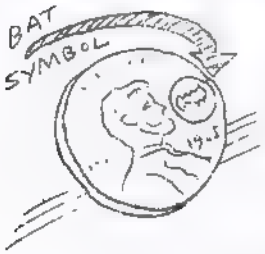
M.M.M.E. Time,

DID YOU KNOW that

YES! GOOD[illegible]
all [illegible]
entirely [illegible]
--A Nostalgia [illegible]
gers, Capt. [illegible]
Gold & Silver Comic, P[illegible]
hurry [illegible]
Order for: M.M.M.E.,

WANTED: [illegible]
comics co[illegible]
FOR SALE: [illegible]

35¢ e[illegible]
Vul[illegible]
Thr[illegible]
My Favorit[illegible]
9; Sid[illegible]
& the K[illegible]
40¢ e D[illegible]
WANTED: Bat[illegible]
for any [illegible]
I have [illegible]
the numbers [illegible]
35[illegible]
ish 79-82, [illegible]
80,82; Bi[illegible]
1; [illegible]
all move [illegible]
AUDIO VISU[illegible]



[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

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chance to get [illegible]
your comple[illegible]
charter mem[illegible]
a monthly, bi[illegible]
500....or....b[illegible]

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BATMANIA Ballot
1966

For the third straight year all [illegible] votes for The Best Story and Best Cover [illegible] get out those prized collections, [illegible] (Note: Instead of taking up a lot of [illegible] as we did previously, this year we've [illegible] for you to answer.) Results will be [illegible] mania -- and as usual, forwarded to [illegible]

1. Best Cover of the Year_____
2. Best Story of the Year_____
   (Note: Any Batman story in [illegible] Detective, World's Finest, [illegible] Showcase, B&B, etc. Not [illegible] such as those found in Ann[illegible] printed (and dated) for Jan.-[illegible]
3. Favorite Batman artist_____
4. Favorite Batman writer_____
5. Favorite Batman Villain_____
   (Note: On questions 3, 4, [illegible] in 1966 issues are eligible.)
6. Most Needed Improvement_____
   _____
   _____
7. Rate the Batman newspaper st[illegible]
   (Very Good, Good, Fair, P[illegible]
8. Rate the Batman TV Show [illegible]_____
9. Speaking of Comics only,
   Do you think Batman is [illegible]
   About the same as always_____
   Batman stories need impr[illegible]
   Batman, in general, is [illegible]
10. Which do you prefer?
    The New Look (present) [illegible]
    Batman (under Schiff, Ed[illegible]
    Pre-1950_____
11. Should we have more newspaper p[illegible]
12. Would you pay 25¢-50¢ for a full [illegible]
    reprints_____
13. Other Comments_____
    _____
    _____

It is not necessary to remove [illegible] and Answers can be copied on another [illegible] are asked to complete this ballot as soon [illegible]

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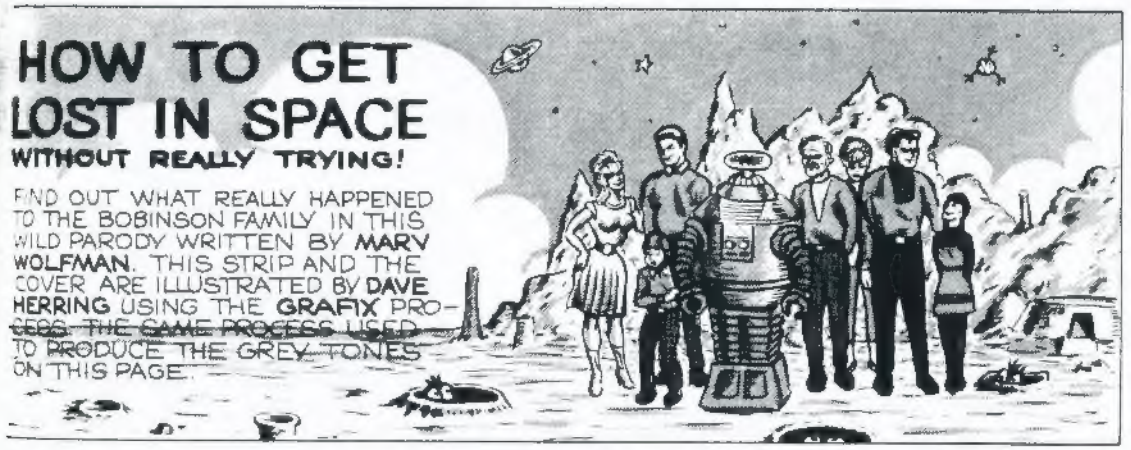
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The BATMANIANS SPEAK

Scott Taylor
Westport, Conn.

Thursday, September 1st, I took the standard tour thru National Periodical Publications offices. I had taken an early train into the city with the intention of browsing through some bookstores for old comics.

Afterwards, I entered the building at 575 Lexington Ave. and went up to the eighth floor where National's offices are located. There were about fifteen of us in the tour, mostly children and teen-agers. The guide showed us some proofs of various titles, which are stored in large files that are along the sides of a short hall. Since the artists and writers do most of their work at home, the guide told us we wouldn't be meeting any of them.

We did meet several of the colorists and letterers in one of the larger rooms. After explaining how a comic book is put together, the guide brought out a rejected Lois Lane cover (#71). Reason for the rejection: colors were too bright which made it more of a day scene instead of an intended night scene.

The guide showed some slides that were pictures of covers of various DC comics. These are referred to, when necessary, by writers, artists, or the editors. However, since these were duplicates, and weren't needed, he passed them out. I got one of Blackhawk #222.

There was a question and answer period...one I recall was: "How long will the logo on the covers of Detective and World's Finest be split up?" Ans: "As long as Batman's popularity lasts the logos would remain split."

Upon the conclusion of the tour, several souvenirs were passed out. They were: A piece of original art - a Superman daily strip by Wayne Boring; A Superman of America button; A sticker that says "Batman is coming" (not a bumper sticker); A 1948 color pinup of Superman - on the back are three reproductions of early DC comics: Action #47, World's Finest #5 and Superman #14 (all are in black and white.)

The tour was about a half hour and was both interesting and educational. It's well worth the time and money to see National. Try to make it when in New York City.

On The Drawing Board

If you like to know what is coming in the next issue of your favorite comic, and who doesn't, then you must read "On The Drawing Board" regularly. The last few issues have been fully offset and contain news from all the major comic publishers. It is published monthly by The Gateway Comic Art Fan Club c/o Robert Schoenfeld, 9516 Minerva, St. Louis, Mo. 63114. Sample copy: 25¢, or subscription: 12 issues - $1.50. It's illustrated.

LeRoy S. Blair
Meridian, Idaho

In the Batmemorabilia series Larry Raybourne indicates that the first story in Batman #5 did not have a title, but he is wrong. It was called "The Riddle of the Missing Card."

Bat-Fact: I just bought a copy of Detective Comics #118. On the splash page the Joker is shown holding a Royal Flush. I believe that the Queen of Diamonds is Wonder Woman and the Ace is probably Hop Harrigan. Also did you see Batman in Scooter #4?

Batman's TV Sweepstakes

If anyone learns who the top winners were please notify us here at headquarters. Also, if you have any of the Batscenes (from the Proctor & Gamble displays) that you don't plan to keep, we'd like to display as many different ones as we can locate here at The White House of Comics. Remember, our new address: 1812 Jackson St., Columbia, Mo.

Hope Chaikin
E.Meadow,N.Y.

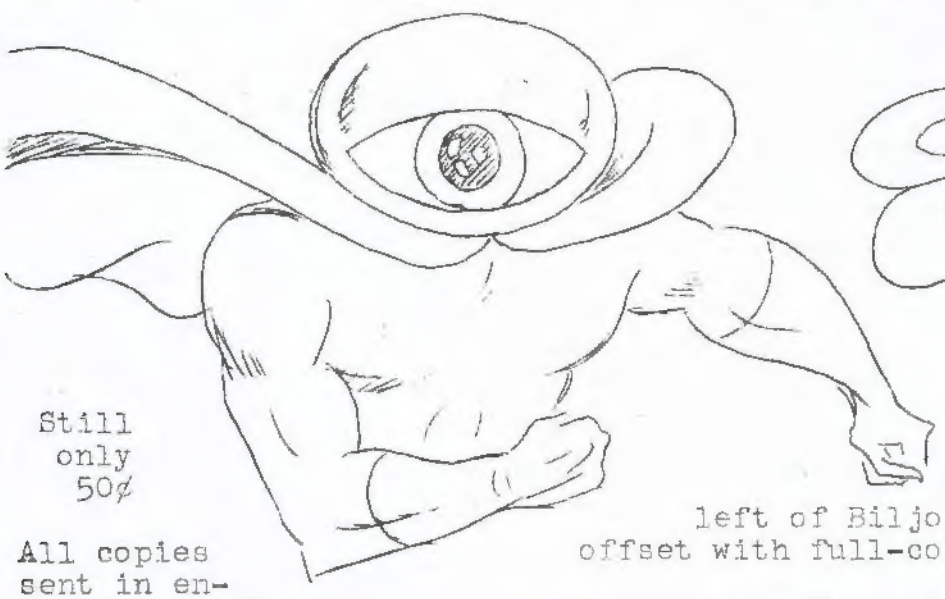
Meet a Batwriter -- Stanley Ralph Ross.

Stanley Ralph Ross is a new discovery on the Batman TV show scene. He's the one that authored the first Catwoman show of the new season, as well as many others. (The one I liked was Shame -- Biljo)

Stan comes from Coney Island, but he lives in L.A. with his wife and seven-year old son. His writing is diversified, as he has written scripts for Man From U.N.C.L.E. and Felony Squad, as well as Batman.

His dialogue is the "campest" camp, as witnessed in a scene in the Catwoman episode when Batman and the Princess of Plunder are hanging out of a window. "Batman," queried she, "are you spoken for?" "What?" replied our hero. "Married, engaged, or going steady?" answered the Curvacious Cutie of Crime with a coy smile.

Watch for Stan's Batman shows, among them "Egghead," another Catwoman episode in the spring, and "Come Back, Shame," a bat-spoof of all the bat westerns (sic).



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